

SEDEPT update – May 2020

The South East Board (SEDEPT) has been holding fortnightly catch up calls in April and May to share information on key issues for councils and LEPs around the Covid-19 emergency. The most recent was on 29th May. SEDEPT has also had extra meetings to look at specific themes. On 18th May the theme was reprioritisation of road space. The purpose of the meeting was to share current experiences and progress in responding to Government's request to support walking and cycling through the recovery phase of Covid-19. We also discussed how do we square all the different factors between existing policies? How do we ensure we are delivering against existing design standards? And is anyone trying to model the impact on what the network will look like with the phased unlocking?

On 22nd May the theme was climate change. Whilst Covid-19 has presented a lot of threats there are also a number of opportunities during the phased recovery to take forward the zero carbon ambitions. The aim of the session was to provide an update on what councils are doing and consider any issues that ADEPT can provide support on.

Sue Halliwell (Co-Chair) also spoke at the Westminster Forum conference on 12th May on achieving net zero emissions by 2050. The session was on building local capacity to achieve net zero – the role of local government in adaptation, behavioural change, and delivering a just transition. Other speakers at the conference included Lord Deben (Chair of the Committee on Climate Change), Nick Molho (Executive Director of the Aldersgate Group) and Chris Venables (Head of Policy at the Green Alliance).